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UNITED
NATIONS

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General Assembly

Distr.
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A/AC.109/L.1852
25 July 1996

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH
REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF
INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES
AND PEOPLES

ONE HUNDRED AND THIRD REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Acting Chairman: Mr. Utula Utuoc SAMANA (Papua New Guinea)

1. The Working Group held its 142nd meeting on 25 July 1996.

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. In connection with the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, had authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly had directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. The Working Group decided to recommend that in that connection the Special Committee consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1997 and that, when particulars of such meetings become known, it request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provisions in accordance with established procedure.

2. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 16 February 1996, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Working Group also recommended that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1997.

3. Pattern of conferences

5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 50/206 of 23 December 1995. By organizing its programme of work effectively, holding extensive consultations, working in informal sessions and streamlining the work of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, which had had a shorter session than in previous years, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1997, the Committee consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

February/June	As required
July	Up to 20 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) Subsidiary bodies

May/June	15 meetings (1-4 meetings a week)

7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1997, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 50/206 B of 23 December 1995. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee streamline its report to the General Assembly.

9. By its resolution 50/206 B, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim record by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it maintain its summary records.

10. The Working Group noted with concern the decision of the Department of Public Information to suspend its coverage of the Special Committee and its subsidiary body and recommended to the Special Committee that it urge the General Assembly to request the Department to resume full coverage of the activities of the Special Committee.

5. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

11. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-first session.

6. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

12. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it organize in 1997 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Government Territories.

13. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Special Committee invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

14. The Working Group decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate.

8. Integration of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance with the Special Committee

15. The Working Group may recall that the proposal for integration, which was made by the delegation of Papua New Guinea, was discussed at length by the Open-ended Working Group of the Special Committee on 29 March 1996. It was felt that, for further consideration, the delegation of Papua New Guinea should prepare a written proposal comparing the mandates and functions of the Special Committee and of its subsidiary body. The delegation of Papua New Guinea submitted the written proposal on the question of integration. The Working Group addressed the issue and decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it defer any action in this regard until further examination of the proposal during the next session of the Special Committee, in 1997.

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE
GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO
COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Report of the Acting Chairman

1. At its substantive session of 1995, the Economic and Social Council adopted resolution 1995/58 of 28 July 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In paragraph 16 of that resolution, the Council requested its President to continue to maintain close contact on those matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council at its substantive session of 1996.

2. At its 1453rd meeting, on 16 August 1995, the Special Committee adopted a resolution on the question, in which it decided to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-first session. 1/

3. At its fiftieth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995, in paragraph 14 of which it requested the Economic and Social Council to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

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4. Under the terms of the foregoing resolutions, the Chairman of the Special Committee held consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council in July 1996, an account of which is set out in document E/1996/85. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman took part in the Council's consideration of the related item at its 1996 session and will report to the Committee when it resumes consideration of the item.

5. Information on further developments will be issued as addenda to the present report, as appropriate and necessary.

Notes

1/ A/AC.109/2040. See also A/50/23 (Part IV), chap. VII, paras. 13 and 14. The complete report is to be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 23 (A/50/23).

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SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION
WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION
OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING
OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL
COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES BY THE SPECIALIZED AGENCIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS

Draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman

The Special Committee,

Having considered the item entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

Having considered the reports submitted on the item by the Secretary-General 1/ and the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council, 2/

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, and resolutions of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, as well as other relevant resolutions and decisions,

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1/ A/51/212.

2/ A/AC.109/L.1853.

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,

Noting that the large majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories are small island Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, there are special challenges to planning for and implementing sustainable development and that those Territories will be constrained in meeting the challenges without the continued cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing necessary resources for funding expanded assistance programmes for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all the appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

Expressing its appreciation to the Organization of African Unity, the South Pacific Forum and the Caribbean Community, as well as other regional organizations, for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in this regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of assistance programmes to the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the Non-Self-Governing small island Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as

hurricanes, cyclones and sealevel rise, and recalling the relevant General Assembly resolutions,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 50/34 of 6 December 1995 on the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations,

1. Takes note of the report of its Acting Chairman on his consultations with the President of the Economic and Social Council 2/ and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom; 3/

2. Also takes note of the report of the Secretary-General;

3. Recommends that all States intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to ensure implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. Reaffirms that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. Reaffirms also that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. Expresses its appreciation to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. Requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, as well as regional organizations, to examine and review conditions in each Territory so as to take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of the Territories;

8. Also requests the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, as well as regional organizations, to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing

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3/ E/1996/85.

Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

9. Recommends that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit the proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

10. Also recommends that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review at the regular meetings of their governing bodies the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

11. Welcomes the continuing initiative exercised by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining close liaison among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and in providing assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;

12. Encourages Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

13. Requests the administering Powers concerned to facilitate the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations so that the Territories may benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system;

14. Recommends that all Governments intensify their efforts in the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations and, in that connection, accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

15. Requests the Secretary-General to continue to assist the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in working out appropriate measures for implementing the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and to prepare for submission to the relevant bodies, with the assistance of those agencies and organizations, a report on the action taken in implementation of the relevant resolutions, including the present resolution, since the circulation of his previous report;

16. Commends the Economic and Social Council for its debate and resolution on this issue and requests it to continue to consider, in consultation with the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

17. Requests the specialized agencies to report periodically to the Secretary-General on the implementation of the present resolution;

18. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit the present resolution to the governing bodies of the appropriate specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations so that those bodies may take the necessary measures to implement the resolution, and also requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. Decides, subject to any directives the General Assembly might wish to give at its fifty-first session, to continue to examine the question and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-second session.